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~~Security Information~~

17 March 1953

Interception of US Aircraft off Kamchatka

1. A USAF aircraft was fired on by a MIG-15 off Kamchatka Peninsula in the Soviet Far East at 1230 local time (0200Z) on 15 March 1953.
2. USAF press announcement:
  1. The US aircraft was an RB-50 of the Alaskan Air Command flying routine weather reconnaissance from Eielson Air Force Base, near Fairbanks Alaska.
  2. The US aircraft was intercepted by two MIG-15's at 54° 02'N, 161° 04'E, 25 miles off the East coast of Kamchatka, about 100 miles northeast of Petropavlovsk.
  3. One MIG-15 fired on the RB-50 which returned the fire. There was no known damage to either aircraft.
3. Top Secret report from Alaskan Air Command: 25X1X3
  1. The RB-50 was [REDACTED] in the vicinity of Petropavlovsk, departing Shemya Air Force Base in the Aleutians at 2109Z, 14 March.
  2. The US crew reported two encounters with jet fighters, probably MIG-15's, at 54° 02'N, 161° 04'E.
  3. In the first encounter, two MIG-15's flew parallel to the RB-50 about 10 miles away, without attacking. In the second, one MIG-15 made a firing pass, starting at 25,000 feet and breaking off the attack at 13,000 feet as the bomber returned the fire.
  4. The RB-50 entered the cloud undercast at 10,000 feet and returned immediately to Shemya, landing at 0400Z, 15 March.

5. The aircraft was not within 20 miles of the Soviet coast  
at the time of attack.
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